

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13582 241254Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 105777

O 241135Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9778

S E C R E T SAIGON 13582

EXDIS

EYES ONLY FOR ACTING SECY INGERSOLL AND AID DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR
MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VS

SUBJ: AIR AMERICA DIVESTITURE

1. INFORMATION INFORMALLY RECEIVED HERE TODAY INDICATES "NOTICE
WILL GO TO THE COMMERCE BUSINESS DAILY ON OCTOBER 25 ANNOUNCING
THE ISSUANCE OF A 'REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS.'
THE BIDDERS' CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN SAIGON ON NOVEMBER 19 AND
THE SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR WILL BE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE OPERATION
BEGINNING APRIL 1, 1975."

2. IF ACTION PROPOSED IS TRUE IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO
FORMAL DECISION OF DEPUTY SECY, WHICH, AS FAR AS WE KNOW,
STILL STANDS AS FORMAL DECISION.

3. AS I PROMISED, ON THE REQUEST OF SENIOR OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON,
I MENTIONED THIS MATTER ON MY RETURN TO BOTH PRIMIN AND THE
PRES. BOTH INDEPENDENTLY REAFFIRMED THE CONCLUSION I HAD
RECORDED IN MY MEMORANDUM OF AUG 20 TO PARKER THAT IT WOULD
BE A POLITICAL IMPOSSIBILITY UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS IN
VIETNAM TO AGAIN GIVE "EXTRATERRITORIAL" RIGHT TO SOME OTHER
OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR TO FLY AT WILL THROUGH VIETNAMESE AIRSPACE.
THIS WOULD CAUSE PARTICULARLY ACUTE PROBLEMS GIVEN THE PRESENT
LIBERALIZED CLIMATE OF DISSENT AND PROTEST WHICH THEY HOPED
COULD BE CONTINUED AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE EXPLOITED BY HANOI

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13582 241254Z

PROPAGANDA. THEREFORE, WHILE CONTINUED OPERATION OF AIR AMERICA

COULD BE DEFENDED AS A HISTORICAL NECESSITY, UPON THE DEPARTURE OF AIR AMERICA, THE PROCESS OF "VIETNAMIZATION" SHOULD BE APPLIED TO FUTURE AIR OPERATIONS WITHIN VIETNAM.

4. I INFORMED THEM OF SECY INGERSOLL'S DECISION THAT, SINCE THEIU WAS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM THE CONGRESS TO

PHOCEED WITH THE COMPLETE DIVESTITURE OF AIR AMERICA, THE PRESENT

CONTRACT BE NOVITED TO CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES. AFTER INITIAL OBJECTIONS, THEY AGREED THAT BECAUSE OF THE CASI PRESENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH AIR VIETNAM THIS COULD BE POLITICALLY DEFENDED. HOWEVER, THE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO AGAIN REVIEW MATTER WITH ME BEFORE NEXT JUNE.

5. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, AND IN FURTHER VIEW OF THE CURRENT DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION WITHIN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE SPECIAL EFFORT WE ARE NOW MAKING TO CONVINCE THE LEADERSHIP THAT THE PERVASIVE FEELING THAT EVERY U.S. GOVT ACTION IS DESIGNED SUBTLY UNDERCUT THEM, TO PRECEED WITH ANY NOTICE TO COMMERCE BUSINESS DAILY OR ANY BIDDERS' CONFERENCE IN SAIGON IN NOVEMBER IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION AND I ASSUME IMMEDIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN TO SEE THAT NEITHER HAPPENS.

6. THIS IS NOT A SIMPLE ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER BUT A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE. MARTINT

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SERVICE CONTRACTS, PROPOSALS (BID), FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON13582
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740304-0008
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741019/aaaaaqbt.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR AMERICA DIVESTITURE
TAGS: PFOR, VS, AIR AMERICA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005